



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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#### MEMBER

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 17, 2015

Sen. Flexer, Rep. Hennessey and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee,

I am Sen. Scott Frantz, and I am testifying in favor of S.B. 51: ***AN ACT CREATING A SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FOR DISABLED VETERAN CONTRACTORS***

Simply put, this bill is about helping our veterans, who have risked so much and, in many cases, lost so much all in the name of freedom and democracy. Specifically, it's about welcoming them home with the promise of economic opportunity.

This proposal aims to assist businesses owned by disabled veterans in obtaining state contracts.

It would establish a program requiring state and quasi-public agencies that contract for more than \$10,000 in goods and services each fiscal year to set aside at least three per cent of all such contracts for competitive bidding exclusively by qualified disabled veteran contractors.

Our state should be doing all it can to ensure that our disabled veteran contractors are better able to compete for state contracts.

This legislation would help us to chip away at our high veteran unemployment rate.

Our veterans have critical skill sets that are needed in Connecticut's workplace.

Our vets also have integrity, work ethic and drive, and other intangibles which make them uniquely qualified to be entrepreneurs and job-creators.

We want veterans to start businesses here in Connecticut, and we want them to create and grow Connecticut jobs.

Our veterans – and their families - have sacrificed so much, and they have made those sacrifices in the name of freedom and national security. Their commitment to us makes them heroes by definition, and this possible law is our commitment to them

Thank you for your consideration of S.B. 51.